

Appl. No. 10/082,874
Response Dated Jan. 25, 2006
Reply to Office action of Jul. 25, 2005

Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A control system for a heating, ventilating or air conditioning (HVAC) system, comprising:

a remote command receiver for receiving HVAC system instructions for said HVAC system; and

a control module, comprising:

(i) a speech receiving member for receiving speech commands; and

(ii) a converter for converting said speech commands to HVAC system instructions; wherein said control module is communicated with said remote command receiver for conveying said HVAC system instructions from said control module to said remote command receiver.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said control module further comprises a transmitter for transmitting said HVAC system instructions to said remote command receiver.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said transmitter is a wireless transmitter, and said remote command receiver is a wireless receiver.

4. (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said transmitter and said remote command receiver are communicated by wireless communication selected from the group consisting of light-based communication, radio communication and combinations thereof.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said transmitter and said remote command receiver are communicated by light-based communications.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said transmitter and said remote command receiver are communicated by infrared communications.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said control module further comprises an indicator member for identifying a received speech command.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said control module further comprises a storage member for storing known speech patterns and corresponding indicators, and wherein said control module is adapted to compare said received speech command with said known speech patterns and to output an indicator corresponding to said received speech command.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said indicator member is a speech simulator and said corresponding indicators are signals for generating speech.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 8, wherein said storage member also stores commands for generating HVAC system instructions corresponding to said known speech patterns whereby said control module acknowledges said received speech command and transmits corresponding HVAC system instructions.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said control module further comprises a neural network adapted to train said control module for receiving personalized speech commands, and a storage member for storing personalized speech data and corresponding HVAC system instructions.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said control module further comprises a base member adapted for supporting said module on a flat surface.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 12, wherein said control module further comprises a plug member for connecting to an AC power source and an AC-DC transformer for supplying DC power to said control module.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 12, wherein said speech receiving member comprises a multi-directional microphone.

15. (Original) A control module for controlling a heating, ventilating or air conditioning (HVAC) system, comprising:

a speech receiving member for receiving speech commands;

a converter for converting said speech commands to HVAC system instructions; and

a transmitter for transmitting said HVAC system instructions to said HVAC system.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said transmitter is a wireless transmitter.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said transmitter is a transmitter selected from the group consisting of light-based transmitters and radio transmitters.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said transmitter is an infrared transmitter.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising an indicator member for identifying a received speech command.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a storage member for storing known speech patterns and corresponding indicators, and wherein said converter is adapted to compare said received speech command with said known speech patterns and to output an indicator corresponding to said received speech command.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said indicator member is a speech simulator and said corresponding indicators are signals for generating speech.

22. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said storage member also stores commands for generating HVAC system instructions corresponding to said known speech patterns whereby said control unit acknowledges said received speech command and transmits corresponding HVAC system instructions.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a neural network adapted to train said control module for receiving personalized speech commands, and a storage member for storing personalized speech data and corresponding HVAC system instructions.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said heating, ventilation or air conditioning system includes an HVAC component which generates a noise zone wherein operating noise of said component is greater than 60 dB A, and wherein said control module is positioned relative to said component outside of said noise zone.

25. (previously presented) A method for operating a system according to claim 1 to control a heating, ventilating or air conditioning (HVAC) component, comprising the steps of:

providing said heating, ventilation or air conditioning component which generates a noise zone wherein operating noise of said component is greater than 60 dB A;

positioning said control module outside said noise zone;

receiving a speech command at said control module;

converting said speech command to HVAC system instructions at said control module; and

sending said HVAC system instructions from said control module to said component.